

CHALLENGE



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U.S. Rulers' Strategy: WORKERS' BLOOD FOR BOSSES' OIL

The U.S. bosses' widening campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), also known as ISIL or IS, represents their latest move to control Middle East oil and dominate their imperialist rivals in the heart of their global empire. Oil is the lifeblood of capitalism. The loss of the world's most profitable reserves would devastate energy giants like ExxonMobil and send the U.S. into its worst depression in history (see box, page 2). The bosses will continue to defend their interests at all costs. Twenty-three years of invasions, bombings and sanctions have killed more than three million working-class Iraqis and tens of thousands more in Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, Pakistan and Somalia. For U.S. rulers, the most violent terrorists in the history of the world, eliminating ISIS terrorists would represent a drop in the bucket.

When Barack Obama said, "We don't have a strategy yet" in the face of ISIS's grab of oilfields and refineries in Iraq and Syria, he was lying. His capitalist handlers have had an explicit, petroleum-based, Middle East war strategy for decades. In his 1980 inaugural address, two months after profit-hungry Iranian rulers seized the vast assets of Exxon and other Western firms, President Jimmy Carter said: "An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force."

When U.S. presidents cite "vital American interests," they hide the fact that these are the bosses' interests, directly antagonistic to the needs of the international working class. Workers gain nothing from Exxon's business. To the contrary, we are the ones who die in imperialist wars to protect the oil companies' profits. This vicious cycle will end only when the bosses' capitalist system is smashed by communist revolution and

replaced with a society run by and for workers, who create everything of value. That's the goal of the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party.

Obama Wedded to Oil War Doctrine

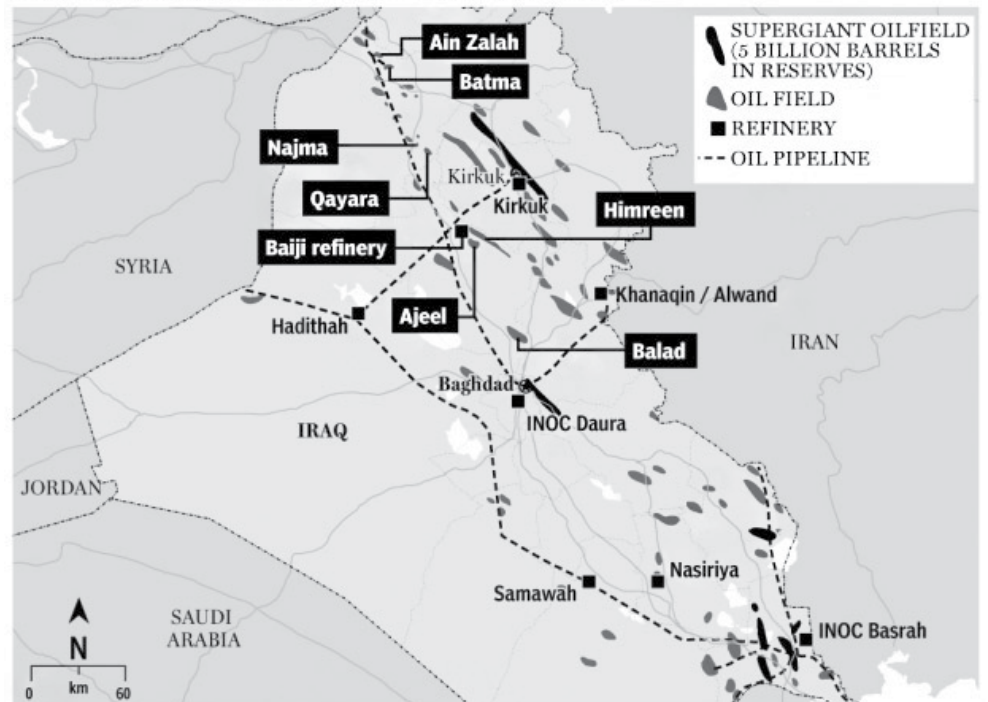
Obama's anti-ISIS policy, outlined in his speech on September 10, is an extension of the Carter Doctrine and the pledge by President Franklin Roosevelt to Saudi Arabia during World War II: that the U.S. would defend the region's oilfields at all costs. The same strategy triggered the Gulf War in 1991 under President George H.W. Bush. It drove the sanctions under President Bill Clinton that strangled Iraq from 1993 to 2001. It set off President George W. Bush's "shock and awe" invasion of 2003 and the eight-year Iraq War that followed. Obama is as tightly tied to this strategy as the Republicans and Democrats before him.

The president's plan for now is to attack ISIS through air strikes and major ground deployments by regional allies. But since this approach will inevitably fail, the U.S. rulers' growing hydrocarbon rivalry with China promises a deeper, wider and deadlier Middle East conflict ("NATO Foresees Three Years of War in Iraq," *Le Canard Enchaîné*, 9/10/14). On September 16, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said he might recommend "the use of U.S. military ground forces" in Iraq.

It's not just Iraqi oil that's at stake. Given ISIS's expansionist program, the

WHERE ISIS GETS ITS OIL

NORTHERN OILFIELDS AND REFINERY UNDER ISIS CONTROL



Iraq has the world's fifth largest proven oil reserves. In March, Reuters announced Iraq as the world's fastest-growing oil exporter. In April, it was producing 3.3 million barrels per day, equal to 4 percent of global supply.

U.S. bosses have to worry about the longtime linchpin to their Big Oil world order: Saudi Arabia.

Racism: U.S. Bosses' Dilemma

ExxonMobil and the finance capitalists who own it are openly steering U.S. policy on ISIS. Their problem is that Obama, hindered by a fractured Congress and a war-weary public, can't provide the billionaires all the firepower they want. Meanwhile, the rulers' racist attacks on black and Latin youth — a key part of their effort to divide and pacify

the working class — pose a dilemma for them. The same young people murdered by cops in U.S. cities and apartheid towns like Ferguson, Missouri, the same ones who are imprisoned by the millions by the racist criminal justice system, are also the bosses' leading source of cannon fodder for their perpetual imperialist wars. By alienating these youth, the capitalists undermine their case for their needed military draft. Alienated workers also contribute to the unreliability of the present U.S. military, which will once

Continued on page 2

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

★NEWARK

Marchers Hit Racist Cop Murders
page 3

★FERGUSON

Black Youth Defy Armed Racist Cops
page 3

★WEST BANK

Worker: Confront Israeli Rulers' Land Grab
page 4

★HAITI

Declare War on President's Anti-Communist Attack
page 5

OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

★Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?
The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

U.S. Bosses’ Aim: Control Oil to Blackmail World

Continued from front page

again be counted on to shore up U.S. control of the Middle East.

Obama Gets His Marching Orders

Two days before his ISIS speech, Obama hosted a White House dinner for a handful of former top-level war planners to hear “their views on a range of national security and foreign policy issues” (New York Times, 9/9/14).

The mass-murdering guest list united Democrats and Republicans. All had tight connections to Exxon itself or its founding Rockefeller family, which bankrolls hundreds of “philanthropies” to advance U.S. imperialism. In sum, the group represented U.S. capitalists’ “central committee,” the tight circle that gives Obama his orders. They included:

- Stephen Hadley, national security advisor for George W. Bush. He helped lead the deadly 2007 troop surge in Iraq and now works directly for Exxon;
- Condoleezza Rice, another Bush national security advisor, also hired by Exxon. According to Iraq Oil Report (2/8/13): “Rice and Hadley have been consulting Exxon on Iraq and on the broader region as well since at least 2011”;
- Richard Haass, the Director of Policy Planning under the Bush State Department, helped prepare the 2003 Iraq invasion. Haass currently heads the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the finance capital think tank that counts Exxon as a “founding member”;
- Samuel R. Berger, who advised Clinton to bomb Bosnia and Kosovo and sits on the boards of imperialist foundations like the Rockefeller- and Soros-funded International Crisis Group;
- Strobe Talbott, president of the Brookings Institution policy factory, which lists the ExxonMobil Foundation as a top donor;
- Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security advisor to Jimmy Carter and the author of the Carter Doctrine. Together, Brzezinski and David Rockefeller founded the Trilateral Commission, which seeks to unite pro-U.S. forces from North America, Europe, and Asia in a potential World War III alliance.

Obama’s ISIS manifesto, in which he compared the new fight to U.S. air campaigns in Yemen and Somalia, failed to satisfy this oil-driven oligarchy. Kenneth Pollack, a Brookings scholar, suggested that Obama “should have reminded the American people that this is ultimately about oil and our economy....we need to acknowledge that that is where our ultimate interest in the Arab states lies” (Brookings website, 9/11/14).

Haass, meanwhile, wrote that the capitalist bosses “need to set a scale of effort on our part far larger than anything that is being undertaken or contemplated in Yemen or Somalia.” As Haass lamented, “What air power cannot do is take and hold territory. You need a ground component, and we are not in a position to provide that” (CFR, 9/11/14).

It’s the Oil

The following, by Brookings’ Kenneth Pollack, appeared in the July/August 2003 issue of Foreign Affairs, the journal of the Council on Foreign Relations, four months into the second U.S. war in Iraq. The bosses’ panic over losing Middle East (and especially Saudi) oil supplies continues to shape U.S. rulers’ strategy.

“America’s primary interest in the Persian Gulf lies in ensuring the free and stable flow of oil from the region to the world at large....The global economy built over the last 50 years rests on a foundation of inexpensive, plentiful oil, and if that foundation were removed, the global economy would collapse.

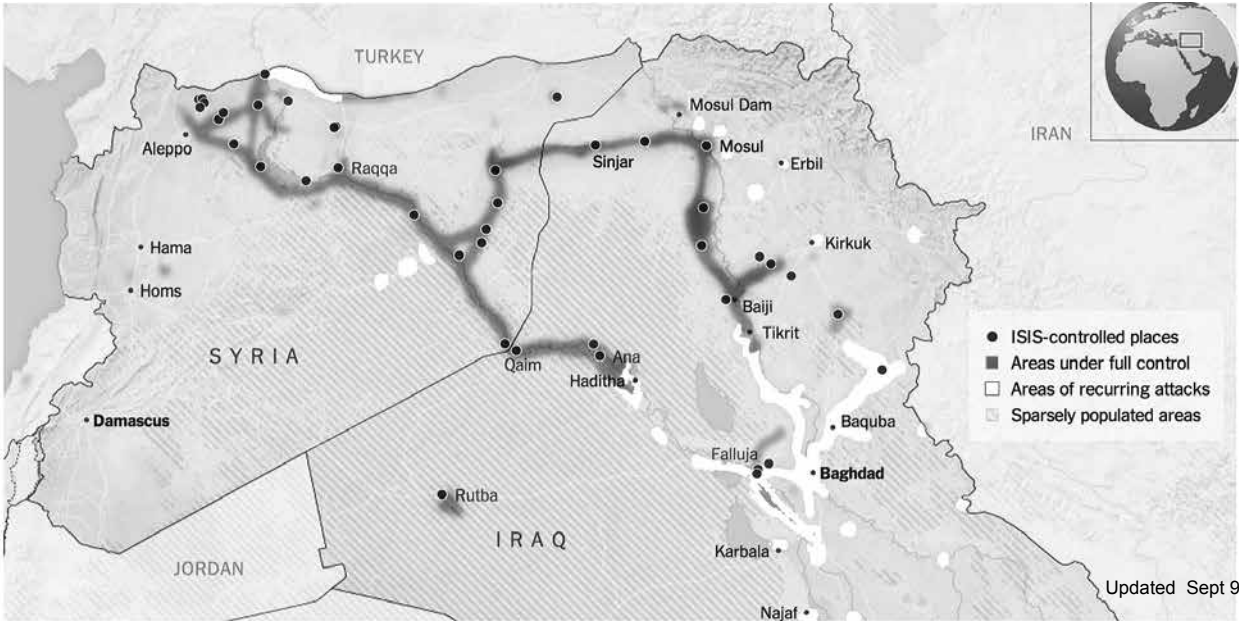
“[R]oughly 25 percent of the world’s oil production [31 percent in 2014 — Ed.] comes from the Persian Gulf, with Saudi Arabia alone responsible for roughly 15 percent [13 percent today — Ed.] The Persian Gulf region has as much as two-thirds of the world’s proven oil reserves, and its oil is absurdly economical to produce, with a barrel from Saudi Arabia costing anywhere from a fifth to a tenth of the price of a barrel from Russia. Saudi Arabia is...not only the holder of the world’s largest oil reserves, but it also has a majority of the world’s excess production capacity, which the Saudis use to stabilize and control the price of oil by increasing or decreasing production as needed. Because of the importance of both Saudi production and Saudi slack capacity, the sudden loss of the Saudi oil network would paralyze the global economy, probably causing a global downturn at least as devastating as the Great Depression of the 1930s, if not worse.

“So the fact that the United States does not import most of its oil from the Persian Gulf is irrelevant: if Saudi oil production were to vanish, the price of oil in general would shoot through the ceiling, destroying the American economy along with everybody else’s. [T]he U.S. also has an interest in preventing any potentially hostile state from gaining control over the region and its resources and using such control to amass vast power or blackmail the world.”

Building PLP Under Rising Fascism

Aggravating the bosses’ problems is the need for more military funding for their relentless oil wars. This can come only from intensified exploitation of the U.S. working class, from higher taxes to cutbacks in wages and social services. Workers will suffer greatly from these attacks. From Ferguson to France to Palestine, workers will also respond as they always have in the face of capitalist oppression: with greater opposition and fightback (see pages 4, 5, 6).

Despite Obama’s caution and their reluctant and inept regional allies, U.S. capitalists cannot walk away from the Middle East. They will do what they feel they must to sustain their brutal system of exploitation. Expect more workers’ blood to be spent for bosses’ oil. But as Karl Marx declared, capitalism generates the seeds of its own destruction by creating a working class. The job of Progressive Labor Party is to lead that class to communist revolution and to end imperialist war for all time.☺



Sources: Caerus Associates, Long War Journal, Institute for the Study of War

As of September 16, U.S. fighter planes have conducted more than 160 air strikes across Iraq since August. The UK, France, Germany, and Australia have sent personnel and/or equipment, including arms for Kurds, fighter jets, transport planes, and other aircrafts to fight ISIS.

Newark Marchers Hit Racist Cop Murders

NEWARK, August 20 — A multiracial group of 250 workers, students, community activists and others, marched today to condemn the racist cop murders of Michael Brown, Eric Garner and Abdul Kamal (an unarmed black man shot and killed by cops in Irvington, N.J. last year). The event was called by the People's Organization for Progress (POP), an activist community group. The protesters continuously chanted, "Hands up, don't shoot," while marching down Market Street to the center of Newark. Many onlookers responded favorably to the militant tone of the march. A total of 240 CHALLENGES were distributed.

Progressive Labor Party members mobilized people from mass organizations to attend this event. The class struggle in this area has been increasing, and a few more of our friends are involving themselves in larger political events than in the past. This presents PLP with more opportunities for growth, but also important challenges.

Liberal Rulers Mislead Workers Away from Fightback

In the wake of the militant antiracist rebellion of black workers and students in Ferguson, Mo. against the murder of Michael Brown by cop Darren Wilson, the liberal sector of the ruling class is pulling out all the stops to squelch this fightback. These bosses want to mislead workers into supporting any solution other than communist revolution to the systematic killings of young black and Latin workers by racist cops. The contradiction between what masses of workers really need and what various activists and community leaders are saying was on full display in the speeches given.

Various speakers couched the demand for "justice" for these three and others killed in calls for investigations by the U.S. Justice Department, or beefed-up lo-

cal Civilian Complaint Review Boards (CCRB). But New York City has a CCRB already. Only 14.4 percent of the complaints filed with the CCRB last year resulted in any recommendation for action against the cop. And, of those complaints that were substantiated, only half resulted in any discipline, for an overall rate of 7.2 percent. In fact, NYPD chief cop Bratton recently complained that the CCRB was "overcharging" NYPD cops as he ignored many findings of misconduct (NY Times, 8/26/14).

The call at the rally for intervention by Attorney General Eric Holder to investigate Kamal's shooting will lead to a similar dead end. The liberal rulers consciously use Holder to try and cool angry workers. Promising Justice Department "investigations" is guaranteed to lead to something less than "justice" for murdered black workers and students. Many past shootings, like those of Amadou Diallo and Sean Bell (a total of 91 bullets fired), never even led to charges against the killer cops. In the few cases that have actually led to a conviction of the cops involved (as in the 1999 torture-murder of Earl Faison by the cops in Orange, N.J.), the cops are only jailed on "violation of civil rights" charges, which leads to much shorter sentences than murder or even manslaughter convictions.

One speaker at the rally pointed out the connection between mass racist unemployment in places like Ferguson and the police terror needed to keep angry black and Latin workers under control. That speaker also pointed out that it is the rulers' fear of domestic



rebellions, not the "fight against terrorism," that motivated their distributing out tanks, armored vehicles and advanced weaponry to local police departments. The speaker told the crowd that neither bullets nor tear gas would stop the fight to smash racism. He was warmly applauded.

PLP knows that police reform will never stop racist cop murders. Hiring more black cops, taking away military weaponry and more government "investigations" are just masks to cover up the cops carrying out the bosses' real agenda — terrorizing and murdering restive and angry workers, many of them black and Latin. Only a communist revolution will bring the true justice that workers want and need.✪

Ferguson: Black Youth Defy Armed Racist Cops



Young men and women workers battle police for the sixth night in Ferguson on August 15, angry at the racist murder of 18-year-old Michael Brown

FERGUSON, Sept 16 — In August, the first team, three students and a teacher, of Progressive Labor Party members went to Ferguson, Missouri, to fight alongside local residents against racist police terror and murder. As soon as we got into the crowd, we could feel the tension between community members and the St. Louis County police. The cops had formed a line with assault rifles, clubs, shields, and armored trucks to block protesters from marching down the street. We responded with chants like "Hands Up, Don't Shoot!" or "Who Shot Mike Brown, You Shot Mike Brown!" The crowd of mostly black youth was fearless in confronting the hyper-militarized police force.

As black nationalists and local ministers tried their best to pacify the crowd, militant workers and youth shouted them down and chased them off. Police used megaphones to order protesters to keep moving, and the ministers said the same thing. But the protesters sat down in defiance. When a pastor told people to follow him down the street to continue the "peaceful" march, a protester replied, "You can walk down the

street, but we're not leaving."

The famous rapper Nelly, also fronting for the ruling class, tried to calm the angry crowd by saying, "We don't need to be on out here protesting and causing havoc in the streets because we have options now."

He was interrupted by a protester who shouted, "You have options — you're rich!"

Workers in Ferguson saw right through the misleaders who wanted to stop the rebellion.

For five hours, protesters congregated by a Quick Trip gas station that had been burned down a couple of days earlier. The PLP team distributed 300 CHALLENGES, made contacts with community members, and had conversations about capitalism and how fighting back against racist oppression cannot end in Ferguson. Many workers were receptive to our ideas about capitalism and its direct link to the murder of black youth by police.

Colombia PL'ers Back Ferguson Rebels

Members and friends of PLP in Colombia condemn the despicable murder of our class brother Michael Brown, whose name must sadly be added to the list of workers murdered in the U.S. and the world by the miserable capitalist system. Capitalism has shed the blood of our friends and comrades since its inception.

The racist policy of this criminal system will not end there and will continue adding to the choking of Eric Garner, the shooting of Kimani Gray, the bleeding-asking-for-help of Kyam Livingston, the racist police murder of Shantel Davis by black detective Phillip Atkins, and thousands more.

Colombia is no different. As the backyard of U.S. capitalism, Colombia's fascist presidents such as Álvaro Uribe and Juan Manuel Santos have followed the genocidal policies of U.S. imperialism. They order the daily murder and disappearance of workers, peasants and teachers who fight for the interests of the working class.

We admire and support the rebellion and struggle of youth and workers in Ferguson. We know that these just rebellions will continue because they are a necessity and an example for the international proletariat to follow. Ferguson counters the bourgeois norm of believing in capitalist justice and its criminal and racist courts, that are accomplices to the murders. We workers of the world must destroy the bosses' borders by uniting in our international Party, developing our theory and political organization and combining these forms of struggle to reach our goal of communist revolution.

For these reasons, we encourage your protests, rebellions, takeovers, and strikes. There shouldn't be a minute of peace for our class enemies! We must be clear that the oppression of the working class will only end with the dictatorship of the proletariat and the forging of a new communist society.

Comrades in Colombia

continued on page 4

Workers: Confront Israeli Rulers' Land Grab

WEST BANK, Sept 17 — As if Israel had not already inflicted enough pain by murdering over 2,100 Gazans, mostly civilians and children, they have now grabbed almost 1,000 acres of cultivated Palestinian land near Bethlehem. This is said to be further punishment for the killing of three Israeli teens in July. In reality, it is just part of the plan to gradually take over all of historic Palestine through illegal Israeli settlements and land grabs. Palestinians now live on only 20 percent of this land.

On a recent visit to the West Bank, some U.S. comrades learned that many Palestinians have given up on the idea of a two-state solution (separate Israeli and Palestinian states) in favor of one state. Although the number of our contacts was limited, they all seemed to agree. Firstly, so much land has already been illegally “settled” by Israel, that not enough remains to make up a viable contiguous state.

More importantly, many have realized that Israel has never had any intention of allowing a Palestinian state. The entire 25-year negotiating process is seen as simply a ploy to obscure the true Zionist intention, first espoused in 1948, of taking everything for themselves, killing as many Palestinians as possible, and forcing them to leave by creating unbearable living conditions. However, the Palestinians have survived, and the population of the whole area is now about half Arab and half Jewish.

During our visit we were invited to a conference in Ramallah to discuss “One Democratic State,” an attempt to unite many small groups desiring this end. The attendees were almost all older Palestinian men, with only a few students or women, two Israelis, and some internationals present.

Ilan Pappé, a prominent Israeli historian who has been forced into exile for telling the truth about Israeli history, was one of the speakers. He said that the whole two-state solution was only a charade to pretend that the occupation is temporary. He wanted to change the term to colonization (the suppression of natives by settlers) which may continue with or without a military occupation. The struggle must be for a single just state.

Unfortunately, no one talked about how that single state should be structured. A PL’er attempted to make the point that in the U.S. or South Africa, inequality and racism remain rampant because they are capitalist states, but she was not permitted to finish her remarks. Also, no one discussed what means of struggle are needed to promote the fight. Only the international boycott of Israel, a petition, and pressure on Palestinian politicians were mentioned. Clearly a mass campaign of civil disobedience would be needed to move forward. All agreed, though, that Fatah and Hamas will never lead an effective struggle, they will only sabotage it.

One man who has led a winning grass roots movement is Ayed Morrar, who organized the people of his village, Budrus, to fight an Israeli land grab in 2004. Every resident, including women, was encouraged to participate and take leadership. They confronted the soldiers and bulldozers seven days a week, suffering two deaths, until they won back over 90 percent of their land and saved 3,000 olive trees. They allowed no interference or funding from politicians and united all factions in the town.

Unfortunately, this model has not been replicated. Ayed hosted us in his home for a day and described the sad state of current village protests. As in the best known, B’ilin, the fight occurs only once a week, the day the Israelis are not working, and is geared to attract media attention, outside visitors, and government and NGO support. Consequently, not much has been won. There is no existing organization, from the so-called communist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), that is organizing grass roots struggle.

One encouraging sign we saw was a lack of anti-Semitism. Most Palestinians clearly separate hatred of Zionism from hatred of Jews. They have met supportive Israelis and international Jews who come to support their struggle and hope to expand these ties and live together peaceably. This is in sharp contrast to the pervasive anti-Arab racism espoused by 90 percent of Israelis, to the extent that they celebrate the deaths of thousands of Gazan civilians. This racism results from inculcation with paranoid and racist ideas from earliest childhood.

Our comrades and the 10 percent or so of Israelis who reject this idea face a difficult path, but they do organize demonstrations and refuse to fight. Now the task is for anti-racist Jews and Palestinians to join together and fight not just for a single state but for a communist state. Only when workers rule can racism and exploitations be ended.☸

NFL’s Racism, Sexism Grows Out of Biggest Abuser: Capitalism

As the howls of anger against black pro football players Ray Rice and Adrian Peterson continue unabated, they highlight the bosses’ efforts to divert anger from the biggest abusers, racists and oppressors of women and young people.

Sexism is rampant under capitalism. Driven by the need to force women into low-wage jobs and no-wage labor (to raise the next generation of workers), capitalism has both tacitly and openly encouraged degradation of women. Women are crudely objectified by capitalist culture. Young men are encouraged to use women as if they were commodities.

The National Football League has long been a focal point for some of capitalism’s most racist and sexist ideology. The NFL turns a blind eye to its players’ worst behaviors. It highlights half-naked cheerleaders. It exploits and then tosses away the broken bodies and injured brains of young athletes drawn to the sport as a long-shot escape from poverty. It promotes military flyovers and chants of “USA” as the U.S. ruling class — along with its imperialist proxy state, Israel — murders masses of men, women, and children in the Middle East. Why isn’t the National Organization of Women screaming about these atrocities?

The latest outburst around domestic violence by NFL players only deepens the damage, despite the NFL’s hypocritical show of concern for the players’ families. There is no justification for the actions of Adrian Peterson and Ray Rice. Janay Rice and Peterson’s four-year-old son were harmed and damaged, perhaps for life, and most people know that. Yet why the outrage from so many who say nothing about the massive damage done to black women, children and men by this racist system? On August 30, the New York Times reported that the racial wealth gap in the U.S. is worse than it was in South Africa under apartheid. The average black or Latin household has a mere six percent of the net worth of the average white household. The black-white income

gap is 40 percent greater today than in 1967. The average black boy born in the U.S. today will die five years earlier than the average white boy.

The outsized anger at black men who do bad things is one more way that racism infects capitalist culture. What appears on the surface to be criticism of abuse has turned into another attack on black men. Racists are given free reign to unload their hatred. People who are tired of the racist nature of the criticism are silenced or misguidedly try to defend Rice and Peterson and get attacked as excusers. Yet many people are defending Danny Ferry, the general manager of the Atlanta Hawks basketball team who made a racist statement about Luol Deng, an NBA player.

There are vast crimes against black workers in this country every day. Young men are murdered by the police while district attorneys refuse to prosecute racist cops. Schools serving black children are decimated. In fact, by every measure of income, health care and education, black workers suffer disproportionately under capitalism. No wonder that the bosses want to divert our anger toward a pair of football players!

It is no coincidence that the furor directed at Rice and Peterson comes on the heels of the rebellion in Ferguson, Missouri. What happened in Ferguson shook the bosses’ system. The image of furious black workers fighting back against the cops and their lackeys exposes the weakness of capitalism’s grip on the working class.

As the mass outrage at the murder of Michael Brown put the bosses on the defensive, they became desperate to look for even more ways to build racism and a fear of black workers. Their aim is to try to undermine the multi-racial, anti-racist anger built by the rebellion. Black athletes, paid millions, are easy marks. But the most brutal abusers of women and children are the capitalists who now sit in judgment. We need to put them out of action — for good.☸

Ferguson: Black Youth Defy Armed Racist Cops

Continued from page 3

During the protest, the fascist cops would point their assault rifles at the crowd from atop their armored vehicles. Led by PL members, the crowd responded by chanting even louder: “They Say Get Back, We Say Fight Back!”

In the midst of this confrontation, community members looked out for one another by sharing water and food; we caught a glimpse of what communism would look like.

Solidarity Against Fascist Cops

As it got darker, the atmosphere grew tense. We knew the cops would go on the offensive at any moment. Younger protesters told older people to return to their homes for their safety. One woman who looked close to 80 sharply responded, “Do you think we are going to leave you all to face these racists by yourselves?”

That statement reflected our solidarity and strength. Fifteen minutes later, the cops attacked us with tear gas. They shot rubber bullets into a crowd with elders and little children. When one comrade got separated from the PLP team, and we ran back for him, we saw a gruesome scene. People were limping out of the clouds of tear gas. Some had trouble breathing; others were passing

out. Most were running for their lives as the fascist police marched forward, assault rifles drawn, arresting anyone they could. Even the bosses’ media journalists weren’t safe, as cops attacked and arrested them as well. Some protesters had to be carried and dragged to safety. But with chants still echoing in the background, we recovered our comrade and helped others. Some people from the crowd did shoot back at police, rejecting the misleaders’ pacifist message. They demonstrated that black workers are not afraid of violence and are willing to fight back.

The cops’ murder of Mike Brown shows us that racist attacks on black youth will continue until we smash capitalism. The capitalist courts encourage cops who murder black, Latin and immigrant workers. The bosses are preparing for urban rebellion, but so are we. Workers are ready to fight back to smash this system. We need more rebellion, but rebellion is not enough. We need a revolutionary communist society, where the working class has the power to rid the world of killer cops. The growth of the Progressive Labor Party is the only way to stop the bosses’ racist police murders. No matter how long it takes, PLP will eventually lead the working class from Ferguson to Gaza to smash the bosses’ cops and courts and establish a communist society free from racist and sexist exploitation.☸

Declare War on Haitian President's Anti-Communist Attack

PORT-AU-PRINCE, August 17 — A speech by Haitian Pres. Martelly in a recent “home government” meeting in Miami with members of his cabinet and the Haitian-American business community, appealed to his base to reject the candidacy of Moïse Jean-Charles, a fake leftist, for Haitian Senate. “I don’t want anyone to vote for a communist,” ranted Martelly.

This anti-communist braying reminds one of the old practices of his political mentor, the murderous dictator François Duvalier. Duvalier eliminated those communists, and the merely progressives, the so-called “kamoken” (“bitter pills”) who were critical of his fascist state. In fact, Duvalier won the support of the U.S. bosses and their minions in the Kennedy Administration by declaring himself the “world’s foremost anti-communist.” Martelly is following suit, declaring himself an enemy of communism to please his bosses in the U.S. Embassy. Don’t let us forget, the sons of the tiger Duvalier still are tigers. While Jean-Charles is only a minor thorn in Martelly’s foot, we know from experience that the misery created by the capitalist system cannot be reformed, either by the ballot box or by any other means.

We have to take this speech seriously, because the old practice of eliminating communists can resurface as Martelly, the Haitian ruling class, and their U.S. bosses feel their system threatened — not by Jean-Charles and the coming elections, but more importantly by the anger of the working class and the advanced ideas of their growing communist leadership. Workers increas-

ingly cannot live under the capitalist system.

Martelly and his masters are far from stifling the reality of daily life that confronts the workers and students of Haiti. That reality always removes the veils that try to hide the misery and capitalist exploitation in Haiti. The PLP has no choice but to grow and increase the militancy of our struggle and resistance against capitalism and imperialism. In fact, the entire international working class must fight and declare war on the exploiters, no matter where they are. Because, to quote Karl Marx, “the interests of the proletariat is that of humanity.”

Don’t Vote — Revolt!

In the capitalist world today, communism is illegal, it is a crime. Because the system is in danger and communism is the only solution for all, Martelly and Co. attack communism. These words are at the same time a sign of weakness, but also a call for repression against communists wherever the revolutionary movement is growing. You can even see it when the politicians speak about elections; they are worried about the reaction of the masses. Because these elections — the attempt to pull the wool over workers’ eyes — are possible only if



Sign reads, “Down with the Occupation”

the working class accepts them and participates.

That’s why we have to continue to chant, “Revolt, Don’t Vote!” Communists haven’t yet won the confidence of the masses. However, the actions that communists undertake now make the bosses and their politicians tremble. That’s why they have declared war. Well, it goes both ways! The PLP and the working class also declare war on the bosses and their rotten, racist, warmongering system. “Fight for communism, power to the workers!”✊

Social Fascists vs. Open Fascists All Serve Finance Capital

PARIS, September 13 — The Socialist government running France for the bosses since May 2012, is wobblier than ever. The bosses’ other governing party, the right-wing UMP, has been discredited by the 2007-2012 Sarkozy regime’s policies and by current scandals. The National Front fascists are eager to grab power. That’s France today: social fascists versus open fascists. The elections are a mechanism by which French banks and businesses (finance capital) maintain state power. Whether it’s the liberal fascists or the outright fascists, both sides spell disaster for workers.

The Sarkozy gang upped the retirement age and lowered retirement pensions, broke the historic strike of undocumented immigrants by promising them papers (which most strikers never received) and pushed racism. In a 2007 speech, Sarkozy adopted the racist stereotype that black people are child-like, saying, “The African man has not entered history sufficiently....Africa’s problem is that it lives too much in the present.”

Disgusted, many voters believed François Hollande’s election campaign speech: “My true opponent....will never be elected, and yet he governs. That opponent is the world of finance.”

But since they took power, the Socialists have pursued the same fascist pro-boss austerity policies as Sarkozy. In January, then-Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault announced, “I am a social-democrat [a right-wing Socialist] and so is the president,” while defending a 10-billion-euros giveaway, supposedly to enable French bosses to compete better with other imperialists.

After the social fascists lost control of 155 cities in the nation-wide municipal elections, president Hollande named a new Prime Minister, Manuel Valls. More window-dressing — Valls pursued the same pro-boss policies as Ayrault.

Meanwhile, unemployment continues to explode — 20.3 percent in July. Deportations of undocumented workers continue — 27,000 in 2013 — which is not surprising, as Valls infamously complained in June, 2009 when he was mayor of Evry, about seeing “too many non-white faces” at the city flea market. By August, Hollande’s approval rating had fallen to 17 percent.

More and more Socialist deputies and ministers became dissidents, fearful that in the 2017 elections, the government’s disastrous policies would deprive them of their comfortable positions. Hollande and Valls responded on August 25 by ousting the dissidents.

Now, the Socialists’ governing majority in the Na-

tional Assembly is a bare 50.2 percent and is expected to lose control of the Senate in this fall’s elections.

The UMP is broke due largely to shady financial deals during Sarkozy’s 2012 election campaign. Sarkozy himself is under investigation for various crimes. The party is divided into warring factions, with two others, François Fillon and Alain Juppé, vying with Sarkozy for the party’s 2017 presidential nomination.

Anti-Arab Racism Hurts All Workers

But the bosses have a third option: the openly fascist National Front (FN). In August, FN leader Marine Le Pen proclaimed her readiness to govern France. And the fascists are indeed getting ready.

This intensified anti-Arab and immigrant racism will continue to drive down wages and benefits for all workers. It will be useful should French troops be needed as cannon fodder in Obama’s coalition in the fight for oil profits in the Middle East.

In September at the FN’s summer conference hall, a sign said, “The DPS [its storm trooper organization] is recruiting....everywhere in France.”

A hot theme at that conference was the racist, paranoid belief in the supposed replacement of French people by Arabs. Le Pen’s foreign policy counselor, Aymeric Chauprade, said: “You see it every day, this change in the population...the big replacement is obvious.” The head of the FN youth organization repeated the theme: “If we don’t do anything, our people will be replaced.”

The overt fascists have also circulated a fake ministerial letter on the social networks. It “earnestly advises” city governments to sponsor “a weekly beginner’s course in Arabic” as an extra-curricular activity in primary schools, and is supposedly signed by the Education Minister. This fabrication follows that the Eiffel Tower will become a mosque, that French schools will forbid the “plus” sign because it resembles a Christian cross, that school canteens will stop serving pork, and similar

anti-Arab lies.

Large numbers here are apparently swayed by this racist garbage. According to a September 4 opinion poll, if presidential elections were held today, the FN would win up to 32 percent of the vote; UMP between 17 and 25 percent; and the Socialists 17 percent percent in the elections’ first round. In the second round, the FN would win a run-off against the Socialists but would lose in one against the UMP. In all cases, the bosses would win.

All three parties — from social fascists to open fascists — are financed and run by the bosses. For workers, the only solution to racism, fascism, mass unemployment and government austerity is communist revolution, to establish a society run by and for workers. Arab, African, French workers of the world unite!✊



LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Colombia, Salvador, Mexico, U.S. PL'ers Move Ahead at Communist School

We had a PLP Communist School in Bogotá, Colombia, in which comrades from El Salvador, Mexico and the United States, as well as friends of the Party, participated.

We saw the political development of comrades and friends, and in particular that of the youth, who showed great enthusiasm and commitment. There was also criticism and self-criticism due to some shortcomings in the reports as well as in the organizing, outreach and propaganda work.

We must highlight the work taking place in Mexico, with families studying dialectical materialism, comrades' supporting workers' struggles, and recruiting members to the Party.

In terms of ideological debate, "base-building" and "reform and revolution," all the comrades made good contributions, emphasizing the need to be part of workers' struggles. We can recruit new comrades and support workers struggles, by making communist politics primary. We can win the working class to see that taking power is the only solution.

We established responsibilities for everyone when they return home, highlighting writing for CHALLENGE more regularly, participating in youth organizations, and providing leadership to workers' struggles. We must denounce local and international abuses of the criminal capitalist system — with its racist, sexist, nationalist policies and thirst for profits realized through the wage slavery and extreme poverty of the working class.

We concluded the communist school with an evaluation based on self-criticism. We assessed the work done and committed to our full potential to continue growing as an international Party and consolidating

our communist political line, so that we can put an end to the capitalist nightmare with a worldwide communist revolution.

Colombian Comrades

Depression, Racist Cop Terror Pervades Western Pennsylvania

This story will not appear on the bosses' nightly news, which tries to justify racist murder or beats the war drums for U.S. imperialism or attempts to put us all to sleep with one inane story after another. I have lived in the coalfields of western Pennsylvania for many years, during which time I've viewed developments in this region from a revolutionary communist perspective.

In the 1980's, we witnessed what was called the de-industrialization of this country. It was then that scores of mines shut down and steel mills were closed. This eliminated decent-paying jobs and spurred rampant unemployment, underemployment and low-wage jobs. Their effects continue and the conditions of daily life under this declining capitalist system grow worse with each passing day while poverty intensifies.

Some turn to petty crime and others to drugs. Of course, these things victimizing mostly poor people are nothing compared to the crimes perpetrated by the U.S. bosses. However, the local news programs act as the "crime report," showing pictures of people who supposedly robbed a store or sold drugs. The small coal town of Nanty-Glo (which means streams of coal in Welsh) is severely economically depressed, with growing poverty and even hunger. There are now attempts to establish food banks to deal with this problem.

Meanwhile, racist cop terror has raised its ugly head and, as CHALLENGE has pointed out, this is the hideous face of the growing fascism and racism in the U.S. In

Pittsburgh, a 20-year-old black man is on trial, even though he was shot five times by a cop during a traffic stop, leaving the young man paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair. The cops say he "resembled" another man who was wanted by the police for some crime. At the trial, the young man stated that the cop who shot him said that he hoped the n***** would die.

I think this upsurge in racism and cop terror is the most important issue confronting all workers, and it's imperative that the communist message on this be given to all workers.

Concerning the coal fields, the high point of life right now seems to be the Friday night high school football games and the fans are not mean-spirited. It's all done in fun and gives workers a release from all the problems capitalism is throwing at them. But what we all need in order to halt this growing fascism is the politics of the revolutionary communist PLP.

Red Coal

'How I discovered PLP...'

I met the Party through a close nursing school friend, which led to my participation in her club, getting invited to a study group, and having the chance to discuss different ideas. We read *Political Economy: Capitalist Ideas Chain the Workers*, chapter 4, was a good read that caused me to experience annoyance, impotence, and anger to discover how the capitalist system is strategically designed to divide and repress the working class.

I also learned to analyze the way economics and politics are connected, and the importance of knowing how and in what ways the bosses invest money so that I can understand how this affects workers' lives.

The experience of being part of a study group is enriching because it provides us with the knowledge to understand the root of our problems, which motivate us to keep on studying and later to put that knowledge into practice through collective work.

Nursing Student

Racist Apartheid Explodes in Ferguson

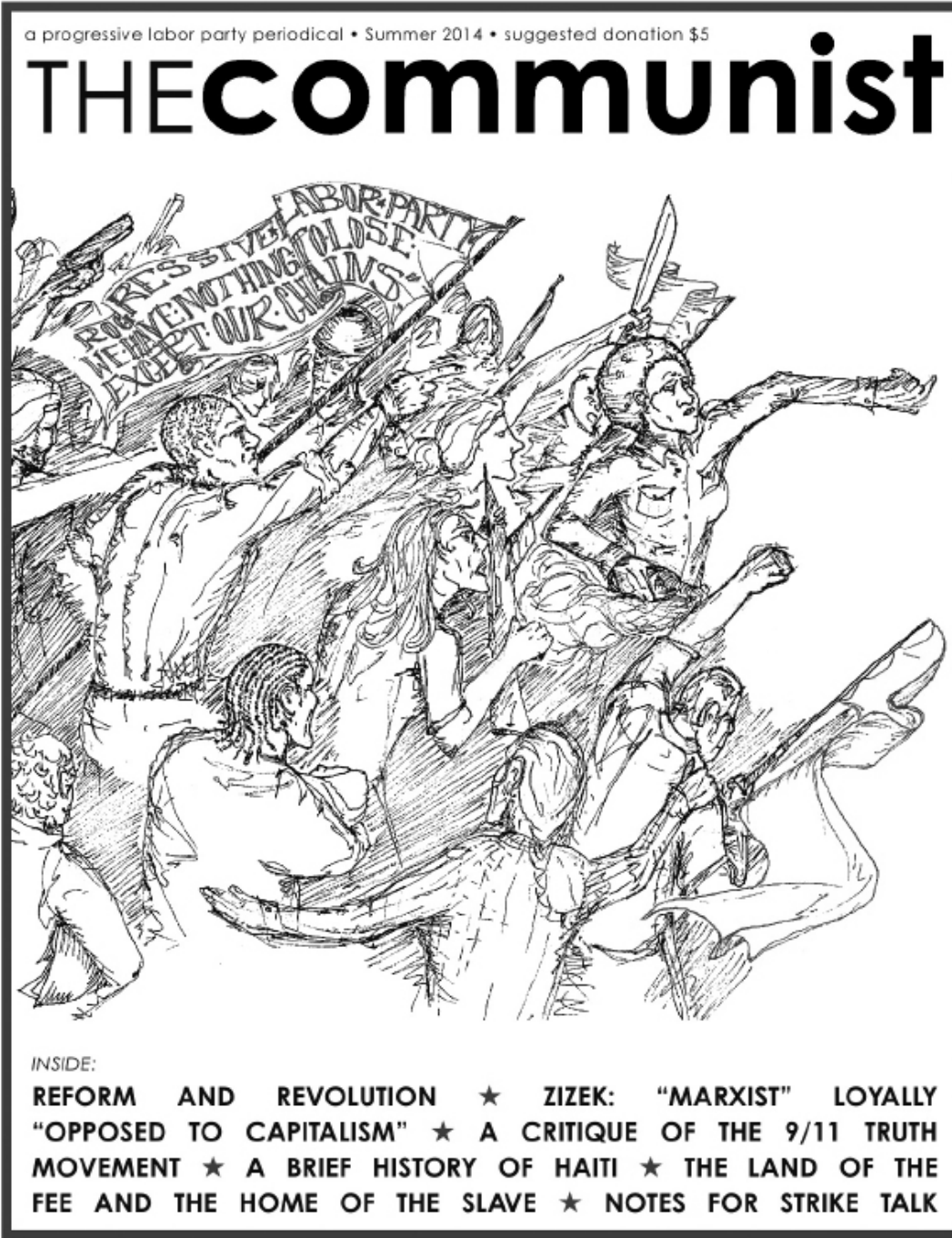
At a recent discussion group I described the media report of a 90-year-old Jewish woman Holocaust survivor, Hedi Epstein, who was arrested in Ferguson, Mo., protesting against the execution of Michael Brown. She said the conditions there reminded her of the Israeli apartheid system she witnessed in Palestine.

One person said she was shocked at the military appearance of the police with snipers, dogs, gas, rifles pointed at protestors' heads, and the many wounded with rubber and pellet bullets while armored vehicles rammed into crowds to break up protests. I said the cops' storm trooper tactics and later use of the National Guard was probably due to police chief Tom Jackson who was replaced by a black cop when the 90-percent white police force failed to stop the protests. According to media reports, Jackson had been sent to Israel to receive training in crowd control. Israel has a long history of training police in genocidal tactics, from racist South African apartheid police to Israeli fascist police who have been torturing and imprisoning Palestinians for 70 years. One of the racist tactics is flooding the media with reports of "outside agitators" and "terrorists" infiltrating protests. The U.S. capitalist rulers, who had been making billions from racist apartheid conditions against blacks in the 1960s, reacted to the Civil Rights movement by "disappearing" and murdering "outside" student volunteers who went to the South.

When the people protest the execution of Eric Garner by NYC's racist police on Staten Island, all the guardians of the profiteers like FBI informer Sharpton, police commissioner Bratton, Mayor de Blasio and Cardinal Dolan gather to protect their profits from poverty wages, exploitation and apartheid neighborhoods. They are assuring their Wall Street bosses that no disruptions or resistance to fascist police tactics will be tolerated.

While Obama, who has prosecuted and imprisoned more reporters and whistleblowers than all previous presidents combined, and the Pope were "horrified" over the execution of a reporter in Syria, there has not been one word of outrage from them over the daily stop-and-kill executions of black youths in the streets across the U.S. The only reason the media responds to these crimes is because workers take to the streets. But our chants must become, "Capitalism can't be fixed, we need communist revolution."

A Comrade



It's out! Read the the Summer 2014 issue of *The Communist*, Progressive Labor Party's magazine. Get a copy online at plp.org, contact your local PL'er, or request a print copy at CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202

Comrade Val Woodward, Staunch Antiracist



Comrade Val Woodward, a staunch antiracist and champion of the working class, died on June 6 at age 87. Starting in the early 1970s, Val and his wife Clare organized the International Committee Against Racism (InCAR) in Minneapolis-St. Paul. InCAR was founded nationally by the Progressive Labor Party to combat racism on the job, in education and in academic publications.

Val's antiracist and pro-working-

class teaching and actions permeated his life. When serving in the U.S. Navy in World War II, Val ended up in the brig after pummeling a fellow sailor who was spouting racist epithets, stopping him in his tracks.

Val applied his knowledge and education in the field of genetics to serve the cause of fighting racism. He was a professor of genetics at Kansas State, Wichita State, and Rice University. He then taught for 33 years at the University of Minnesota, where his course on Heredity and Human Society became one of the school's most popular. He won virtually every teaching and human rights award at the school.

But Val's outstanding contribution was in leading the fight against academic racism wherever it reared its ugly head, under the principle that racism hurts all sections of the working class. This was especially true in his exposure of the academic racists who stoked white supremacy in the 1970s on campuses across the U.S. — the Schockleys, Jensens, and Herrnsteins. The national media disseminated their unfounded claims about unemployment being caused by genes and not by capitalist inequity, and about "inferior" intelligence being inherited by black, Latin and Native American workers.

Val was among the leaders in un-

masking flawed data on "IQ genetics" and participating in campus demonstrations against college-sponsored talks that presented racist conclusions as scientific fact. Helped by Val's leadership, hundreds joined InCAR to demonstrate at the U. of M., exposing academic racism and opposing the sponsorship of neo-Nazis and KKK'ers. Val taught the history of academic racism in the classroom and in churches, training hundreds and leading them in scores of antiracist protests.

During the anti-war and civil rights movements of the 1960s and '70s, Val was often invited to speak at churches, clubs, sororities, fraternities and commencement ceremonies. He would explain how the atrocities of slavery and racism were based on scientific-sounding claims in deeply flawed publications. The realization of InCAR's core principle — that racism most hurts black, Latin and Native American workers, but also hurts white workers — led to the growth of PLP during this period.

As a widely respected geneticist, Val was invited to join a delegation to North Vietnam toward the end of the Vietnam War. He participated in an international conference exposing the horrors and genetic damage of Agent Orange, the defoliant produced by Dow Chemical and dropped by U.S. bombers on civil-

ian populations. Val was among those who brought this evidence back to the U.S., leading to scores of demonstrations challenging Dow recruiters on campuses.

Val taught students from around the world, introducing them to the Marxist analysis that racism and racist injustice are deeply embedded in the fundamental economic inequality of capitalist society. He was also an excellent athlete well into his 70s. For decades he effectively infused his antiracist outlook into the playing fields and courts where he and numerous students met to enjoy a game.

A true internationalist, Val maintained relations with many international students throughout his life, as they continued to visit him at the U. of M. and after his retirement in 2000. He authored scientific books and papers explaining the sources of racism, including *Human Heredity and Society* and *Biology As A Social Weapon*. Val passed on his antiracism to his three children, eight grandchildren and their offspring.

All who knew Val were impressed by his warmth and humor, which never failed to draw you to him as a friend. He is remembered both as a teacher and an active fighter for a world free of racism, a future that is closer because of Val's lifetime of struggle. ☺



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Rely on U.S. Supreme Court for justice? No way...

NYT, 9/3 — Thirty years after their convictions in the rape and murder of an 11-year-old girl in rural North Carolina, based on confessions that they quickly repudiated and said they were coerced, two mentally disabled half brothers were declared innocent....after DNA evidence implicated another man....

Henry Lee McCollum, 50,...has spent three decades on death row, and Leon Brown, 46,...was serving a life sentence, provided one of the most dramatic examples... of the potential harm from false confessions....

In 1994, when the U.S. Supreme Court turned down a request to review the case, Justice Antonio Scalia described...[the] crime as so heinous that it would be hard to argue against lethal injection.

No physical evidence tied Mr. McCollum or Mr. Brown, both African-American,...to the crime.

No Obama outcry over beheadings by U.S. Saudi oil ally

NYT, 8/22 — Saudi Arabia's judicial authorities have beheaded at least 19 convicted criminals since Aug. 4, nearly half of them for non-violent offenses...Human Rights said Thursday....Amnesty International...said... four had been forced to confess under torture. Saudi Arabia has executed at least 34 people this year...and...at least 79 in 2013.

Deportations 'cause crime rates to go up,' not down

NYT, 9/4 — Six years after the federal government opened an immigration enforcement program intended to improve public safety, deporting hundreds of thousands of people...a new study has concluded that the program has had "no observable effect on the overall crime rate...."

Secure Communities, which began in 2008 under President George W. Bush, has become a cornerstone of the Obama administration's immigration enforcement strategy....The program...sweeps up many immigrants who have committed minor infractions, like traffic violations, or are guilty of no crimes at all....

...Criminal deportation policies...have long been publicly justified primarily on grounds that they keep communities safer....

...A majority of those deported through the program were guilty of...victimless offenses not directly related to public safety — or of no crime at all....

The findings...seem to underscore much of the...evidence that immigrants on average offend at lower rates than the native-born. [The study concluded] "If the folks deported through Secure Communities are as — or more — law-abiding than the average person living in their community, then deporting them...could even... cause crime rates to go up."

No recession for bosses' profits as workers suffer; that's capitalism

NYT, 9/1 — Still five years into an economic recovery that has been notable for resurging corporate profits, the number and quality of jobs are still lagging badly, as are wages and salaries.

In 2013, after-tax corporate profits as a share of the economy tied with their highest level on record (in 1965), while labor compensation as a share of the economy hit its lowest point since 1948. Wage growth since 1979 has not kept pace with productivity growth, resulting in falling or flat wages for most workers and big gains for corporate coffers, shareholders, executives and others at the top of the income ladder.

The recent upturn in growth...will not necessarily lead to...improved living standards for most workers.

Florida: 20 years, 42 cop killings, no punishment

NYT, 9/4 — For decades Florida has had a history of deadly, racially tinged police confrontations, many of them involving unarmed men....But in the past 20 years, not a single officer in Florida has been charged with using deadly force....It [is] extraordinarily difficult to prosecute, let alone convict, law enforcement officers for killing someone....

Three years after a particularly notorious episode in South Beach, a 2011...shooting in which a 22-year-old was killed when the police fired more than 110 bullets at his car after it had stopped, prosecutors have still not



decided whether to bring charges against any of the 12 officers....Four bystanders were also wounded during the barrage....

"The system is incredibly biased in favor of the police and incredibly unfair to the victims of police shootings and brutality," said...a prominent criminal defense lawyer in Miami....No charges against officers in 20 years... "What that means is that every shooting has been a good shooting, and that the police have never done anything wrong, and if you believe that I have a bridge I can sell you," said [the]...executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida....

Gas company's 3,798 safety violations killed eight; so much for laws

NYT, 9/3 — Four years after a natural gas explosion tore through a neighborhood of San Bruno, Calif., killing eight people and injuring dozens of others, [a decision said] the Pacific Gas & Electric Company....committed 3,798 violations of state and federal laws, rules, standards or regulations in connection with its [gas] pipeline....PG&E also faces charges...accusing the company of "knowing and willfully" violating the Pipeline Safety Act and of obstructing a[n] investigation into the explosion....

The pipeline exploded....The blaze...consumed three dozen houses and forced a mass evacuation...."The Crestmoor neighborhood was effectively wiped off the map."

To End Global Warming, End Capitalism

Capitalism cannot solve the climate problem it has caused. It is a system of competition driven by profit.

Thousands are gathering in New York and other cities around the world for the September 21 People's Climate March to attack capitalist complicity in global warming. Two days later, government leaders will meet yet again at the United Nations in another doomed and hypocritical show of concern over climate change. Meanwhile, Barack Obama has sanctioned a huge expansion of fracking for natural gas. Fracking leaks methane, a greenhouse gas that traps 25 times more heat than carbon dioxide.

Capitalism cannot possibly solve the same climate problem it has caused. It is first and foremost a system of competition driven by profit, while the needs of the world's workers are ignored. Indeed, virtually all the problems of the international working class are caused by vicious capitalist exploitation and imperialism, the global rivalry that has led to more than a century of massive world wars and smaller proxy wars.

The Progressive Labor Party stands for communist-led revolution by hundreds of millions of armed and determined workers around the world. Only by eliminating capitalism and organizing a world of cooperation and equality can we meet the needs of all humanity. Only by smashing the capitalist bosses can we hope to stop and reverse the harmful effects of global warming.

The impacts of global warming include the following:

- melting glaciers and rising sea levels that will eventually force 10 percent of the world's population to abandon coastal cities;
- ever-increasing floods and droughts, as rain and snow shift from one region to another;
- more frequent and violent hurricanes and tornadoes;
- more pest-caused diseases, increasingly without effective treatments;
- destruction of more and more agricultural areas;
- killer heat waves and home-engulfing wildfires, among other catastrophic effects.

While workers all over will suffer from these effects, those who will suffer the earliest and the most are the hundreds of millions of workers in Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, and Nigeria, who stand to face more



frequent life-threatening conditions (<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/sep/27/climate-change-poor-countries-ipcc>).

Global warming is the inevitable effect of decades of expanded burning of fossil fuels: coal, oil and natural gas. Greenhouse gases trap heat and warm the oceans and atmosphere, while the mining, drilling, and sale of fossil fuels produce the biggest profits of all. Capitalists, who are driven to maximize profits, will never leave trillions of dollars in the ground. Nor will they abandon their investment of trillions more in fossil-fuel infrastructures, including millions of oil-burning vehicles, refineries, pipelines, tankers, and power plants. The U.S. military is the single largest consumer of oil on the planet, using over 100 millions barrels of oil per year on ships, vehicles, planes, and ground operations.

Imperialist Rivalry Leads to Endless War

Every capitalist military on the planet consumes oil and control over oil is vital for imperialist rivals to control each other's ambitions. The rivalry between the U.S., European Union, Russia, China, India, and other rising imperialist nations to control oil and gas (as well as minerals, land, and other resources) will lead to endless war. Millions of civilians are massacred by these national juggernauts in their competition for resources, underpaid labor, and export markets.

We can march by the billions and still never produce any change in this rivalry until we rid ourselves of capitalism, a system that feeds on genocidal wars, racism, sexist oppression, poverty, unemployment, home-

lessness, sickness and early death. This means seizing power from the capitalist class, which steals the value of our labor and funnels these profits to fund their wars for supremacy and control.

Cooperation between imperialist rivals is impossible. We are shouting in the dark unless we organize a worldwide communist movement to seize their power through revolution. The September 21 march can help build such a movement, but letting the politicians send us home with more empty promises will only delay the day we can stop the burning of fossil fuels. And further delay means greater and greater difficulty in reversing the accelerating effects of greenhouse gases.

Only Communism Can Stop Global Warming

The means to end the use of fossil fuels and stop global warming with clean, sustainable energy: wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal already exists. The only thing that stands in the way of achieving non-polluting sustainability is capitalism. For the foreseeable future, the capitalists' greatest profits will continue to reside in fossil fuels. It is the competitive profit system that continues to kill us and to render the planet more and more unlivable.

The revolutionary elimination of capitalism by a movement of hundreds of millions of workers, led by PLP, is our goal. Join us in ending this death-dealing and planet-destroying system of capitalism and imperialism, and in building a system run by and for the world's working class — communism.✊

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